

**Listing of the Claims:**

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1. (Currently amended) A computer implemented system analysis and design method for use in a complex business environment characterized by a set of tightly linked business processes comprising the steps of:

capturing in a framework a world view of a business decision and/or a business application software system, wherein a world view is defined by business objectives, constraints, assumptions, data, and underlying model used in business decision and/or the application software system, wherein a BDML (Business Decision Markup Language) is used to implement the framework for specifying the world view of a business decision and/or a business application software system; and

using the framework to specify and document each business decision and/or business application software system in the complex environment.

2. Canceled

3. (Currently amended) The computer implemented system analysis and design method recited in claim 1 ~~2~~, wherein the BDML is used for ~~the~~ creation and maintenance of a knowledge base of business decisions and processes within an organization.

4. (Currently amended) The computer implemented system analysis and design method recited in claim 1 ~~2~~, wherein the BDML is used for the publication of the functional specification of a business application software system, the world view of a technical research paper in the area of business decisions and its findings.

5. (Currently amended) The computer implemented system analysis and design method recited in claim 1 ~~2~~, wherein the BDML is machine-readable by a BDML processor as well as readable by human users so that it can be used for systematic documentation of business objectives, constraints, assumptions, data, and

underlying model in business processes and/or application software systems.

6. (Currently amended) The computer implemented system analysis and design method recited in claim 1 2, wherein the BDML supports XML (eXtensible Markup Language) based standards for business to business exchanges.

7. (Original) A BDML (Business Decision Markup Language) processor comprising:

a syntax processor that checks the syntax correctness and syntax consistency within an individual and between different documents written in BDML;

a logic processor that checks logical consistency between different documents written in BDML, in terms of the business objectives, constraints, assumptions, data, and underlying model among the different documents; and

a knowledge-based processor including a knowledge base of business decisions, common choices for their decision support models and commercially available decision support systems, the knowledge-based processor providing suggestions for a set of BDML documents to improve consistency using the knowledge base.